

60th House District:
Part of Delaware County

Columbus Office:
Vern Riffe Center 77 S. High
Street 11th Floor Columbus, Ohio

Contact:
(614) 644-6711
Rep60@ohiohouse.gov



Brian Lorenz
State Representative

Committees:

**Vice Chair: Development
Insurance
Local Government
Transportation**

Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the committee — thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on House Bill 176 which establishes the Universal Regulatory Sandbox Program in the state of Ohio.

In Ohio, we pride ourselves on common sense, innovation, and a government that works for the people — not against them. Unfortunately, outdated or overly burdensome regulations often prevent entrepreneurs, small businesses, and forward-thinking organizations from offering new products and services that could benefit consumers and grow our economy.

House Bill 176 is a conservative, pro-growth reform that creates a Universal Regulatory Sandbox — a framework that allows innovators to test new ideas in a controlled environment, free from select regulatory hurdles, while still protecting consumers.

For example, a fintech startup with a new approach to mobile banking could pilot its technology under regulatory supervision, rather than face a patchwork of outdated compliance barriers. A health care provider testing telemedicine tools in rural areas could do so without jumping through unnecessary hoops while still ensuring patient safety. Or an agricultural tech company developing drone-based crop monitoring might be able to work through regulatory questions more efficiently to bring value to our farmers sooner.

The bill creates the sandbox program within the Governor's Common Sense Initiative (CSI) office and establishes an advisory committee and a regulatory relief division to administer the program. Applicants must provide a clear plan, demonstrate potential benefit, and agree to key consumer protections and recordkeeping requirements.

Participants will be able to operate for up to five years, with the option to request limited extensions. They'll be required to disclose their sandbox status to consumers and remain transparent throughout the process. This ensures accountability without stifling innovation.

Importantly, the bill also tasks the regulatory relief division with gathering public feedback to help identify outdated laws and rules that may need to be reformed or repealed — aligning with our mission to make government smaller, smarter, and more responsive.

This is about empowering job creators, reducing red tape, and making Ohio a national leader in innovation. We don't need more regulation — we need smarter regulation.

I respectfully ask for your support of House Bill 176 and I'm happy to answer any questions.